

REMARKS

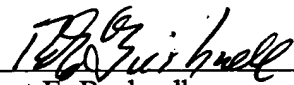
Claims 1 through 20 are pending in this application; Claims 1 through 11 have been amended, and Claims 12 through 20 have been newly added by this Preliminary Amendment in accordance with current Office policy, to alternatively define Applicant's invention and thereby assist the Examiner by facilitating the search and thus expediting the compacted prosecution.

This Amendment is made pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.52(d) and §608.01 of the *Manual of Patent Examination* (7th Ed.), July 1998. No new matter is introduced.

No fee is incurred by this Preliminary Amendment.

In view of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment, this Application is believed to be in condition for examination. Should questions arise during examination, Examiner is requested to contact applicant's attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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